

Appln No. 10/678,997
Reply to Office Action of November 16, 2005

REMARKS

Restriction

Applicants affirm the election with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-10, drawn to an annular mold, classified in class 425, subclass 47.

35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 6-10 have been amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as set forth in the Office Action.

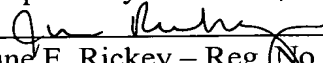
Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowance of claims 6-10 once rewritten to overcome the noted rejections.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Brown (US Patent 2,381,395, Figs. 1-11), Fike (U.S. Patent 6,177,042, Figures 8-10), Satzler (US Patent 4,207,052, Figures 1-4) and Pacciarini et al. (US Patent 3,358,330, Figures 3-6). Claims 1-5 were amended to state a plurality of stationary inner segments for forming the inner surface of the tread belt; and a plurality of radially movable outer mold segments for forming the outer tread belt surface wherein the radially inner and radially outer segments form a mold parting line. Support for this claim amendment can be found on page 8, paragraph 26. None of the cited references teach or describe a mold with stationary inner segments. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.

In light of this amendment, all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application are allowable. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,


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